

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9649

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 5323

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI, KS

SUBJECT: NIGERIA-KOREA RELATIONS

REF: STATE 130508

1. WE BELIEVE EMBASSY DEMARCHE TO FMG ON BEHALF OF KOREANS WOULD BE FUTILE AND PERHAPS EVEN COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, GIVEN OUR CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH ROK. ALTHOUGH FMG ALLOWS KOREANS MAINTAIN TRADE OFFICE IN LAGOS, IT HAS MADE CLEAR IT HAS NO DESIRE BECOME INVOLVED IN DISTANT POLITICAL DISPUTES WHICH HAVE NO DIRECT BEARING ON NIGERIA. FMG FOREIGN POLICY ON QUESTIONS SUCH AS KOREA GENERALLY FOLLOW NON-ALIGNED GUIDELINES, AND WE SEE NO HOPE ROK COULD ALTER THIS STANCE THROUGH PERSONAL CONTACTS. THERE IS SIMPLY NOTHING IN IT FOR FMG, AND THEREFORE NO REASON TO GO AGAINST NON-ALIGNED GROUP. FACT FMG EMBASSY IN OTTAWA RENEGED ON VISA SEEMS TO INDICATE DECISION WAS MADE AT HIGHEST MEA LEVEL IN LAGOS NOT TO MEET WITH ROK REPRESENTATIVES, AND ROK CAN EXPECT SAME TREATMENT IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

2. ROK MIGHT REQUEST FRIENDLY ASIAN COUNTRY, SUCH AS PHILIPPINES OR INDONESIA, WITH REPRESENTATIVES IN LAGOS TO APPROACH FMG ON ROK'S BEHALF BUT WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE PRODUCTIVE. SUCH ASIAN COUNTRIES, WHO ARE IN PROCESS OF REASSESSING THEIR OWN VIEWS OF KOREAN QUESTION, COULD BE
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EXPECTED TO BE VERY RELUCTANT TO EXPEND LIMITED POLITICAL

CAPITAL THEY HAVE IN NIGERIA FOR AN ISSUE ON WHICH THEY KNOW
FMG VIEWS ARE UNLIKELY TO CHANGE.

3. ONLY ALTERNATIVE WE COULD SUGGEST IS FOR ROK REPRESENTATIVES
IN UN TO APPROACH NIGERIAN UN DELEGATION ON THIS QUESTION --
A SUGGESTION WHICH WE REALIZE IS NOT LIKELY TO BEAR FRUIT.
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